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Reports on the recent floods in the Southern districts.

*14 Q.—Mr. G. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: In connexion with the recent rains and floods in the rivers in Tanjore, Trichinopoly and other districts, and the damage caused thereby, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table of the House, the reports of the Board of Revenue and the Collectors concerned as to—

(*a*) the total number of families that have been rendered homeless, the buildings and other properties lost or destroyed in consequence of the recent floods;

(*b*) the extent of damage to the standing kuruvai and other crops;

(*c*) the extent of damage to the transplanted seedlings of paddy;

(*d*) the total number of livestock that have died; and

(*e*) the number of breaches closed by the Public Works Department, and the number of breaches closed by private agencies or individuals?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*e*) Detailed information to the extent desired by the hon Member has not been received by the Government and is no doubt not yet available. Reports have been called for and on their receipt the question of laying them on the table will be considered.

Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar:—"May I know what steps have been taken by Government for the purpose of protecting the flood banks owing to the floods?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"If the hon. Member refers to the steps taken before the breaches occur, I believe there are arrangements by which certain officers have specified duties to perform when floods are expected. By means of a telephone, warning is given to the local officers in advance when floods are expected."

Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—"Are the Government aware that a large tract of the country is threatened with scarcity of water owing to the breaches in the Trichinopoly district?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"I have not been informed of that yet."

Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—"Will the Government be pleased to call for the information and, if it is found to be correct, will they take steps to see that the breaches are closed without any delay?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"As regards breaches in the canals, orders have been issued that they should be closed, but if the hon. Member is referring to tanks, that of course is another matter."

Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—"I was only referring to canals. What I want to point out is this: if it is a question of cost, will the Government be pleased to issue necessary orders to close these breaches regardless of the cost by paying the labourers' wages in the district to-day and not the scheduled wages of the Public Works Department?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"The hon. Member's suggestion will be considered."

Mr. K. Singam Ayyangar:—"May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member whether, consequent on the damage due to floods, there is any proposal to make a remission or postponement of the kist?"

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The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" There are rules relating to the postponement or remission of the land revenue and no doubt those rules will be applied. If any special orders are required which the local officers cannot pass, they will no doubt apply to the Government or to the Board of Revenue."

Relief to the people of the flood-affected areas.

* 15 Q.—Mr. G. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken to ascertain the total estimate of the loss of crops, property or other damage caused by the recent floods ;

(b) whether any enquiry has been instituted by the Board of Revenue or by the Government with a view to ascertain the nature and extent of the relief that has to be given by the Government

(i) by way of remission and suspension of revenue for total or partial failure of crops ;

(ii) by way of advances or loans to cultivators and to the people rendered homeless for the purpose of helping them to repair or rebuild their tenements or otherwise ; and

(c) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Collectors concerned or the Board of Revenue for relief in the manner above set forth, and if so, whether the Government propose to consult this Council before deciding on any action ?

A.—(a) to (c) The hon Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 14. The question of consulting the Legislative Council on the subject will be considered on receipt of the report.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I find in the answer to the question that the question of consulting the Legislative Council will be considered on receipt of the report. I want to know whether it is the intention of the Government to delay the matter until they consult the Council ?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Further relief will be given without waiting for the opinion of the Council whenever necessary."

Irrigation

Site for the reservoir of the Tungabhadra project.

* 16 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage the investigation of the new site recommended by the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee for the reservoir of the Tungabhadra project is ; and

(b) what other steps the Government have so far taken towards the execution of the above project ?

A.—(a) The investigation of the site at Timmalapuram has been completed.

(b) The Government is in correspondence with other Governments which have an interest in the Tungabhadra.